

AMENDMENTSIn the Specification:

On page 1, after the title " DEPTH AND PUNCTURE CONTROL FOR SYSTEM FOR HEMOSTASIS OF BLOOD VESSEL" please insert the following:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

*a1* *10* This application claims priority to U. S. patent application serial no. 09/613,439, entitled "System And Method For Facilitating Hemostasis Of Blood Vessel Punctures With Absorbable Sponge" by inventor Andrew H. Cragg, Rodney Brenneman, and Mark Ashby, filed on July 11, 2000, which is a divisional of U. S. patent application 09/071,284 filed May 1, 1998, by inventors Andrew H. Cragg, Rodney Brenneman, and Mark Ashby, now issued as U.S. patent 6,162,192.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 4 as follows:

-- *a2* Figure 1a illustrates a puncture control tip 10 in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. The puncture control tip 10 includes a tubular, hollow puncture control tip shaft 14, which functions as a flash tube, as described in greater detail below. The shaft 14 includes a lumen 34 (see Figure 1c, for example) which extends longitudinally between proximal and distal ends. For reasons which will be readily appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art, lumen 34 can optionally be coated or otherwise provided with an interior surface which inhibits blood coagulation. By way of example and not of limitation, the lumen 34 can be coated with material including heparin (e.g. heparinized), tPa, or other functionally similar

materials or compounds which inhibit or prevent blood from clotting or otherwise coagulating in the lumen 34.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1 as follows:

Preferably, the control tip is formed of a flexible, biocompatible material, such as thermoplastic. By way of example and not of limitation, the material out of which the control tip is formed has a Shore hardness between about 90A-82D, preferably between about 98A-74D, more preferably about 64D.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 1 as follows:

Marker 36 is preferably attached to control tip 12, or less preferably, positioned on the control tip 12 so that it is difficult to slide them longitudinally relative to each other. The distal end 42 is spaced from the elongated central portion 22 of the control head by a distance X, described in greater detail below. Optionally, the control tip and the marker can be interconnected using a releasable proximal connection, e.g. a Touhy-Borst connector (for which the marker would include cross-drilled holes or the like for blood flash), ultrasonic welding, gluing, etc.